Court directed the Committee to issue an advertisement in two National daily newspapers within two weeks from 5.5.2006 for inviting bids to start Super Bazar afresh. In compliance of this Order, a notice for inviting bids was published on 19.05.2006 in two National daily newspapers. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. and Indian Labour Cooperative Society along with Indian Potash Ltd. had submitted their bids. These bids were opened by the Committee on 8.6.2006. The bids were evaluated by the Committee and a Report was submitted in the Supreme Court on 4.7.2006.

(c) According to the proposal of the bidders, the employees of the Super Bazar would be offered employment in Super Bazar as and when revived, subject to certain terms and conditions. The next date of hearing of the case fixed by the Supreme Court is 05.12.2006. Therefore, the matter is *sub-judice*.

Committee on working of TPDS

1081. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen was constituted on 16th November, 2000;

(b) whether the Committee expressed displeasure over TPDS and recommended universal PDS; and

(c) if so, whether Government would agree to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Targeted PDS was introduced in June, 1997 with a view to target the underprivileged sections of the society, as the earlier Universal PDS did not adequately focus on the hungry and had urban bias. The introduction of universal PDS may result in the PDS losing its focus on meeting the needs of the poor.